46: Cottrell--114-115 T-2 (1840) 1842 Yakut
137, 552

"In this part [RCH: in the district around the Kolyman, Anyui and Indigirka Rivers] of East Siberia, vegetation ceases at the 70th degree of north [115] latitude. All is tundra and moss beyond this; but the lakes are larger and more numerous, and the marshes stretch far and wide. There is one of these lakes called by the Yakuts tastakh, which signifies full of stones, remarkable for a quantity of bituminous wood which it throws up. In it are found pieces of petrified rosin, quite clear like amber, and sometimes containing insects incrusted in them. It seems, however, to be lighter than amber, (we have some specimens of it,) and when burned, has not the agreeable smell."

233 reindeer is his tall branching horns. Forked horns appear on calves already by the end of the first year, and they develop completely during the second year. The horns drop off every year in the spring and grow out again by autumn. The horns of male reindeer fall off during the last days of October, after the driving season. The horns of castrated males and of cows without calves fall off in March or April; those of cows with calves fall off on the fifth day after they have calved; the horns of emaciated or sick reindeer fall off in August, or else they remain on throughout the course of a whole year covered with skin. The natives saw off the horns of such reindeer right at the base in the springtime, since they say that everything the reindeer eats "goes to the horns" and that it does not get fat for this reason. On emaciated reindeer the horns are usually flaccid (emek) and soft; the horns of fat reindeer are firm, tall, and
232 branchy, especially those of males. Commencing in May--on
233 "George's Day" (May 6)--the Dolgan reindeer begin to grow new
262 horns. At first they are soft, and covered with a delicate, hairy skin; by July they grow firm (ossify). Up until this time the delicate radicles of the horns (tuora) often break off, and when this happens the natives tie off the horn at a place below the break with a string so that there will not be any hemorrhage, and so that rain water will not fall on that place and make the brain of the reindeer "rot"; they place moss on the wound or pour salt on it. The horns of calves are especially weak, and if they are not handled carefully enough the top of the skull (eelde) is sometimes torn off along with the horns. The short radicles of the summer horns before they ossify are considered a delicacy; the natives cut them off with a knife from the horns of living reindeer and eat the thin skin raw, singeing off the hair beforehand.

233 [203] In the autumn before the first snow the castrated bucks, the cows--starting on the "Day of Assumption [of the Holy Mother of God]" (August 28)--and the bulls begin to rub off the thin skin of their horns against trees and stones; this is accompanied by a considerable amount of bleeding, and the scraps of skin dangling from the horns produce a very unpleasant impression. The process of rubbing the skin off their horns by bucks is connected with their castration. If they are castrated before they start cleaning their horns, these reindeer simply do not "clean themselves" that year, and they shed their horns later.

233 Among the Dolgan every reindeer has a particular designation de-
552 pending on how old it is. A newborn calf is called sah'l tugut, and

233 a grown calf is called simply tugut. The bucks have the following
552 designations, determined by their age: 1) yearling--m'uojkaa; 2) two-year-old--abalakaan; 3) three-year-old--ikteene; 4) four-year-old--njsmarkana; 5) five-year-old--amarkana; 6) seven-year-old--buur or myyceer. Bucks which are more than seven years old are called sippit taba (mature reindeer). The names for the mares are as follows: 1) yearling--muojkaa; 2) two-year-old--taragaj. Three-year-old mares are called biirde töröbyt--'having calved once'; four-year-old mares are called ikkite töröbyt--'having calved twice'; five-year-old--yste töröbyt--'having calved three times,' and so forth.

The more outstanding reindeer of the herd are given nicknames, which for the most part are the names of the persons from whom they were obtained, or else they are given diminutive appellations based on the color of their hair or on their sex. For example, soçyre is a reindeer with a dappled nose, and the nickname from this is "soçyremii"--reindeer with a cute dappled nose; or, cöölkee means 'white,' and "cöölköölöön" means 'cute white one'; or, at''r means 'buck,' and "at''r'mii" means 'little buck! An example of a person's name applied to a reindeer is "Montuo"' in the expression "Catch Montuo!" "Montuo" is the name of a person living in Noril'sk.

233 Male reindeer become sexually mature at the age of two years and retain their potency until they are quite old. Usually there is one stud reindeer for twenty to twenty-five mares. The mares normally begin to calve in their second year, but it sometimes happens that a mere yearling will give birth to a calf. Such a mare they call ennii, and they do not let it out of their possession, but keep it with them, saying that it will be a reindeer which will give fine offspring (urdustaak taba). Dry mares are called dulaq', and barren ones baaŋaaj.

The Dolgan bucks begin to "be in heat" between the "Pokrov" Day (October 14) and Demetrius' Day (November 8); the Tungus reindeer start earlier, the wild reindeer later--between Demetrius' Day and and Michael's Day (November 21). During this period the stud bucks, who are "in heat," eat almost nothing, get extremely emaciated, and are chasing after mares the whole time. They become irritable, chase the uncastrated young males out of the herd, and sometimes rush at a person and butt him to death. Their snorting is heard day and night. It is interesting to note that, according to the Dolgan, the bucks which are "in heat" do not pursue bucks which have not